

Message Text

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SUBJ: CCD: US DELEGATION MEETING WITH MEXICAN DEL FEB 17, 1977

REF: GENEVA 1133

1. SUMMARY: US DEL MET BRIEFLY AND INFORMALLY WITH MEXICAN REP AND HIS DEPUTY, FOLLOWING CCD PLENARY SESSION FEB 17, TO DISCUSS MEXICAN REP'S PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS, SUMMARIZED REFTEL, AND TO SUGGEST THAT MEXICAN REP'S CONDEMNATION OF ENMOD TREATY WAS UNHELPFUL AND MIGHT WELL BE USED TO SUPPORT PRESENT LEGAL SUIT AGAINST USG FOR FAILING TO FILE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON ENMOD TREATY. MEXICAN REP, WHILE REITERATING HIS VIEWS ABOUT ENMOD, APPEARED MUCH MORE FLEXIBLE ABOUT HIS PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUGGESTIONS, AND REITERATED HIS HOPE FOR SPEEDY CONCLUSION OF CTB TREATY, THANKS TO FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE EXPRESSED BY US PRESIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. US REP SLOSS, ACCOMPANIED BY US DEL MEMBERS MEYERS AND TURRENTINE, HAD INFORMAL MEETING WITH MEXICAN REP
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GARCIA - ROBLES, AND MEXICAN MINISTER COUNSELLOR MARIN, FOLLOWING MORNING SESSION OF CCD PLENARY, FEB 17. US REP REFERRED TO MEXICAN REP'S CONDEMNATION OF ENMOD TREATY AS ATTEMPT TO LEGITIMIZE IN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT MILITARY ACTIVITIES AS MONSTROUS AS THOSE OF PRODUCING EARTHQUAKES, TIDAL WAVES, CYCLONES, OR TORNADOES, AS LONG AS SUCH ACTIVITIES DID NOT HAVE "WIDESPREAD LONG-LASTING OR SEVERE

EFFECTS." US REP SAID THAT, WHILE HE WISHED PRIMARILY TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS OF CCD'S WORK-PROGRAM, INCLUDING PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS, HE COULD NOT HELP BUT REFER TO MEXICAN REP'S REITERATION OF HIS LONG-HELD OPPOSITION TO ENMOD TREATY. CONSIDERING FACT THAT USG WAS PRESENTLY BEING SUED IN US FEDERAL COURTS FOR FAILURE TO FILE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PRIOR TO CONCLUDING ENMOD TREATY, HIS STATEMENT WAS APT TO BE USED ADVERSELY AGAINST USG BY PLAINTIFFS IN THIS SUIT. US DEL CHARACTERIZED THIS STATEMENT AS UNHELPFUL TO USG.

3. MEXICAN REP GARCIA-ROBLES SAID HE HAD EXPRESSED MEXICAN GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING OPPOSITION TO ENMOD TREATY, WHICH IT WOULD NOT RATIFY, AND THAT HE WAS ONLY STATING VIEWS OF HIS GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS HIMSELF. TURNING TO HIS PROPOSALS FOR PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES, HE SAID THAT TWO OF THESE SUGGESTIONS, WHICH DERIVED FROM HIS LONG-STATED VIEWS, IN FACT HAD BEEN ADOPTED BY CCD, NAMELY CONCEPTS OF CALENDAR OF WORK AND PREPARING DRAFT CCD REPORT TO UNGA BY UN SECRETARIAT. HE WAS INTERESTED IN US DEL'S REACTIONS TO HIS OTHER PROPOSALS TO SET UP SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO WHICH SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES COULD BE ASSIGNED BY CCE, AND TO ABOLISH PRESENT CO-CHAIRMANSHIP BY ESTABLISHING CCD BUREAU WITH EACH OF THREE BASIC GROUPS (EASTERN GROUP, WESTERN GROUP AND NON-ALIGNED) DESIGNATING ONE OF ITS MEMBERS FOR THREE YEAR TERM, WITH EACH GROUP DESIGNATING NEW MEMBER AT END OF 3-YEAR PERIOD. HE NOTED THIS LAST ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE WAS NOT PRIORITY QUESTION AND COULD BE EXAMINED AT SOME SUBSEQUENT TIME.

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4. US REP EXPLAINED US DEL AGREED THAT CCD SHOULD DEVELOP WORK-PROGRAM EARLY IN ITS SESSION AND SUGGESTED ADDRESSING THIS SUBJECT NEXT WEEK. HE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO FOCUS ON THSE PRIORITY QUESTIONS, SUCH AS CTB AND CW, AS HAD BEEN INDICATED ALSO BY MEXICAN REP IN HIS FEB 15 STATEMENT, AND ALSO TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY CCD PROCEDURES. HE SUGGESTED IT WAS MORE PRACTICAL, INSTEAD OF ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, TO CREATE AD HOC WORKING GROUPS ON SPECIFIC TOPICS, WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD CONSIST OF MEMBERS FROM ALL CCD MEMBER STATES. HOWEVER, THIS WAS A QUESTION WHICH SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL IN FORMAL OR INFORMAL MEETINGS OF CCD, EARLY IN SPRING SESSION. WITH RESPECT TO MEXICAN REP'S PROPOSALS FOR REORGANIZING BUREAU OF THE CCD, SINCE MEXICAN REP HAD INDICATED THIS WAS NOT PRIORITY QUESTION; US DEL WOULD PREFER TO ADDRESS IT AT A LATER TIME. HOWEVER, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THIS PROPOSAL WAS AS PRACTICAL OR AS FLEXIBLE AS PRESENT MODE OF CCD OPERATIONS, BY WHICH

CHAIRMANSHIP ROTATED AT EACH MEETING AND AD HOC WORKING GROUPS WERE ESTABLISHED TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ISSUES IN A COHERENT AND COOPERATIVE FASHION. MEXICAN REP ASKED ABOUT BRITISH PROPOSAL OF FEB 17, ISUGGESTING THAT THESE AD HOC WORKING GROUPS COULD INVITE PARTICIPATION BY ANY UN MEMBERS REPRESENTED ON THE CCD. US REP SAW CERTAIN PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES FOR CARRYING OUT DISCUSSIONS IN THESE AD HOC WORKING GROUPS IF THEIR MEMBERSHIPS MIGHT BE ENLARGED UNDULY. GRACIA-ROBLES STRONGLY AGREED AND THOUGHT UK PROPOSAL WAS UNWORKABLE. INFORMAL MEXICAN/US DELS MEETING CONCLUDED ON A FRIENDLY NOTE WITH REITERATION BY MEXICAN REP OF HIS PLEASURE IN INDICATION FOR FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS THAT USG HAD AN AFFIRMATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD NEGOTIATION AND SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF CTB, PAYING HOMAGE TO PUBLIC VIEWS AS STATED BY US PRESIDENT.

5. COMMENT: WHILE MEETING WITH GARCIA ROBLES ON HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROCEDURAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES WAS CONDUCTED IN FRIENDLY WAY, HIS PLENARY STATEMENTS ON FEB 15 ABOUT PERNICIOUS EFFECT OF ENMOD TREATY (REFTEL) WAS NOT ONLY HIGHLY INTEMPERATE BUT MISLEADING AND DELIBERATELY DESIGNED TO GIVE IMPRESSION THAT 1976 UNGA HAD BARELY SUPPORTED ENMOD TREATY. US DEL RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST INSTRUCTING EMBASSY MEXICO TO RAISE WITH FOREIGN OFFICE DISTINCTLY UNHELPFUL NATURE OF GARCIA ROBLES' STATEMENT; FACT THAT IT CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE USED BY US PRIVATE GROUP WHICH IS SEEKING TO HINDER US ADHERENCE TO ENMOD TREATY; AND THAT USG STRONGLY HOPES MEXICAN CCD DEL WILL BE ADVISED NOT TO REITERATE THIS UNHELPFUL POSITION PUBLICLY, WHATEVER MAY BE VIEWS OF MEXICAN REP ON THIS SUBJECT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE REACTION TO THIS SUGGESTION. CATTO

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